

Dear \_\_\_\_:

Investments in Minnesota's transportation system are vitally important. It creates jobs and boosts economic development. It allows people to live in their own homes and access critical medical services, to get to their jobs, obtain an education, and get food and supplies. It also supports manufacturing, agriculture, mining, tourism, and other industries. In short, transportation moves a lot.

However, Minnesota's transportation infrastructure is wearing out. Minnesota has thousands of deficient bridges, hole-ridden roads, and aging infrastructure throughout the state. High fuel and material prices make it challenging for local governments to take care of their roads, bridges, and other transit systems. Additional state and federal funding for transportation will make a big difference in assisting counties and cities.

The federal government passed a major infrastructure investment bill, but without any action by the state legislatures, Minnesota can't access or spend all of the dollars that are supposed to come our way. With a \$9.3 billion surplus, it's inexcusable for the legislature to go home without taking any action to increase investments in our infrastructure. There is something Minnesota can do this year to ensure our roads, bridges, waterways, and transit systems are maintained with money that is already accessible.

Minnesota law currently allocates only half of the revenue generated from the sales tax on auto repair parts to transportation through the Highway User Tax Distribution Fund. I believe the state legislature should dedicate the full amount of the sales tax revenue generated towards transportation. How is it that if I buy a new vehicle, current law dedicates the sales tax revenue generated to transportation, but not if I repair or fix my current one?

Dedicating 100% of the sales tax Minnesota already collected on automotive repair parts to fix our transportation system only makes sense. This is the year for the legislature to fully dedicate this needed funding stream to transportation, and help keep our roads and transit systems safe, maintained, and running for years to come.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this request.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

[Your Organization]